

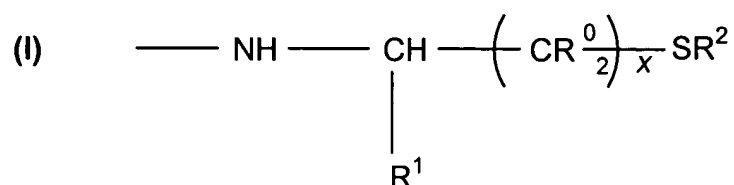
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-21 (cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A means for preventing post-surgical adhesions, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising at least one collagenic peptide which is modified by grafting free or substituted thiol functions, which is crosslinkable and/or at least partly crosslinked and the thiol functions of which are provided by mercaptoamino residues exclusively grafted onto the aspartic and glutamic acids of the collagenic chains, via amide bonds.

23. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the modified collagenic peptide is in the form of a precursor A onto which are grafted mercaptoamino residues bearing substituted thiol functions, at least some of these mercaptoamino residues corresponding to the following general formula (I):

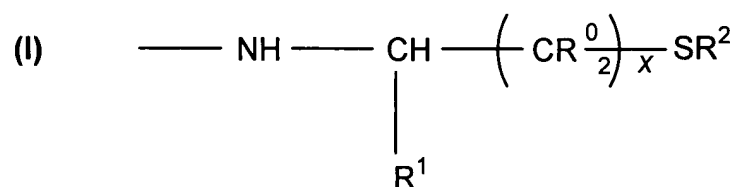


in which:

- $x = 1 \text{ or } 2$,
- $[[R^0]] \underline{R}^0 = \text{H or CH}_3$,
- R^1 represents H or COOR^3 with R^3 corresponding to a hydrocarbon-based radical of the aliphatic, aromatic or alicyclic type,

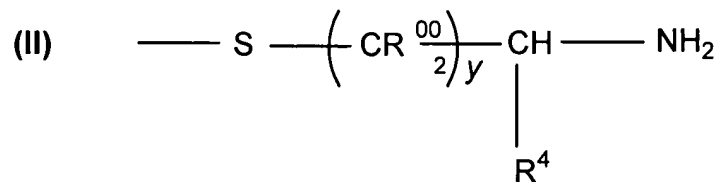
- R^2 is an aliphatic and/or alicyclic and/or aromatic radical. alicyclic, and/or aromatic radical.

24. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the modified collagenic peptide is in the form of a precursor A onto which are grafted mercaptoamino residues bearing substituted thiol functions, at least some of these mercaptoamino residues corresponding to ~~the following general~~ formula (I)



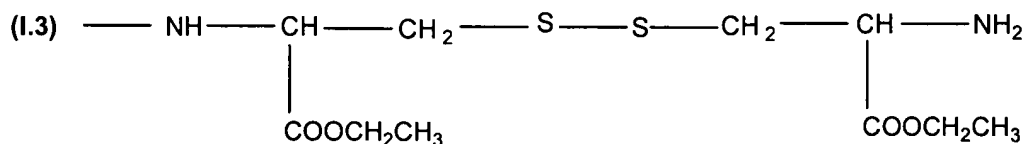
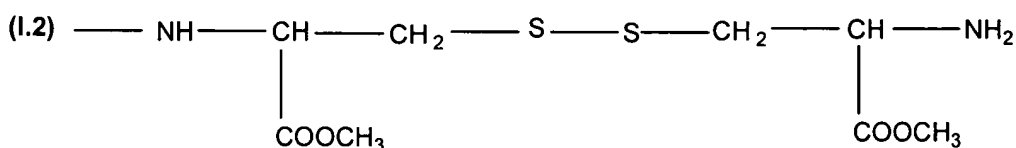
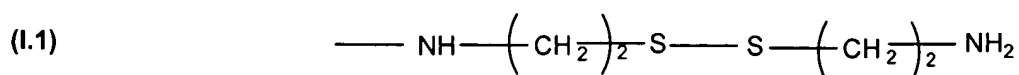
in which:

- $x = 1$ or 2 ,
- $[[R^0]] \underline{R}^0 = \text{H}$ or CH_3
- $[[R^1]] \underline{R}^1$ represents H or COOR^3 with R^3 corresponding to a hydrocarbon-based radical of the aliphatic, aromatic or alicyclic type,
- R^2 corresponds to the following formula (II)

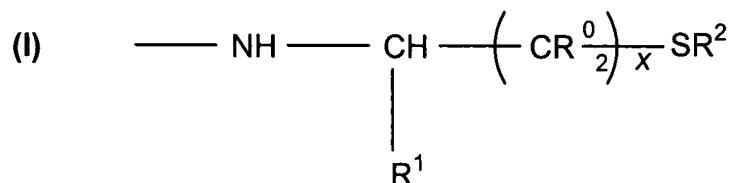


with y , $[[R^{00}]] \underline{R}^{00}$ and R^4 corresponding to the same definition as that given in the legend in formula (I) for x , $[[R^0 \text{ and } R^1]] \underline{R}^0$ and R^1 .

25. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the modified collagenic peptide is in the form of a precursor A onto which are grafted mercaptoamino residues chosen from the group of the following radicals:



26. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the collagenic peptide is in a thiol-type intermediate crosslinkable precursor form B, onto which are grafted mercaptoamino residues, at least some of which correspond to the general formula (I)



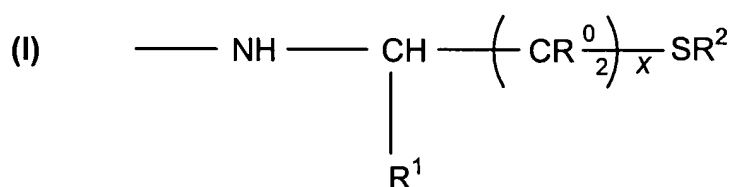
in which:

- $x = 1 \text{ or } 2,$

- $[[R^0]] \underline{R^0} = H \text{ or } CH_3,$
- R^1 represents H or $COOR^3$ with $[[R^0]] \underline{R^3}$ corresponding to a hydrocarbon-based radical of the aliphatic, aromatic or alicyclic type, a hydrogen, or a cation capable of forming a salt with COO^- , and
- $R^2 = H.$

27. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the modified collagenic peptide is in a crosslinked form C comprising collagenic chains attached to one another by disulfide bridges, the constituent sulfur atoms of which belong to mercaptoamino residues exclusively grafted onto the aspartic and glutamic acids of the collagenic chains, via amide bonds.

28. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the modified collagenic peptide is in a crosslinked form C comprising collagenic chains attached to one another by disulfide bridges, the constituent sulfur atoms of which belong to mercaptoamino residues exclusively grafted onto the aspartic ~~and~~ and glutamic acids of the collagenic chains, via amide bonds, this collagenic peptide in C form being obtained from a thiol-type intermediate crosslinkable precursor form B, onto which are grafted mercaptoamino residues, at least some of which correspond to the general formula (I)



in which:

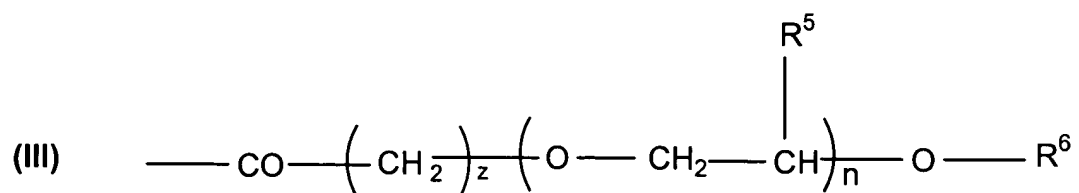
- $x = 1 \text{ or } 2,$

- $[[R^0]] \underline{R^0} = H \text{ or } CH_3,$
- R^1 represents H or $[[COOP?]] \underline{COOR^3}$ with R^3 corresponding to a hydrocarbon-based radical of the aliphatic, aromatic or alicyclic type, a hydrogen, or a cation capable of forming a salt with $[[C00,]] \underline{COO^-}$, and
- $R^2 = H.$

29. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the collagenic peptide also carries grafts G attached to at least some of the free amine units of the collagenic chain, via amide bonds, G being an acyl comprising a hydrocarbon-based entity, ~~EXCLUDING~~ that does not contain mercaptoamino residues.

30. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the collagenic peptide also carries grafts G attached to at least some of the free amine units of the collagenic chain, via amide bonds, G being an acyl comprising a hydrocarbon-based entity, ~~EXCLUDING mercaptoamino residues, this~~ entity containing hetero atoms. that contains hetero atoms, but does not contain mercaptoamino residues.

31. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the collagenic peptide also carries grafts $[[C]] \underline{G}$ attached to at least some of the free amine units of the collagenic chain, via amide bonds, G corresponding to the following formula (III)



with:

- $R^5 = H$ or CH_3 ;
- $R^6 = H$, or a linear or branched alkyl radical;
- $z = 0, 1$ or 2 , and $n > 0$.

32. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it is~~ wherein the means is in the form of a film.

33. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a composite comprising, ~~firstly,~~ a matrix comprising the collagenic peptide as defined in claim 22, ~~and, secondly,~~ a reinforcement material included in this the matrix, ~~this reinforcement being chosen from biodegradable polymers.~~ wherein the reinforcement material is a biodegradable polymer.

34. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a composite comprising, ~~firstly,~~ a matrix comprising the collagenic peptide as defined in claim 22, ~~and, secondly,~~ a reinforcement material included in this the matrix, ~~this reinforcement being chosen from biodegradable polymers, in the form of a fibrous substance, which is woven or nonwoven.~~ wherein the reinforcement material is a biodegradable material in the form of a fibrous substance, which is woven or nonwoven.

35. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a composite comprising, ~~firstly,~~ a matrix comprising the collagenic peptide as defined in claim 22, ~~and, secondly,~~ a reinforcement material included in this the matrix, ~~this reinforcement being chosen from biodegradable~~

~~polymers, in the form of a fibrous substance, which is woven with knitted stitches.~~

wherein the reinforcement material is a biodegradable material in the form of a fibrous substance, which is woven with knitted stitches.

36. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a composite comprising, ~~firstly,~~ a matrix comprising the collagenic peptide as defined in claim 22, and, ~~secondly,~~ a reinforcement material included in this the matrix, ~~this reinforcement being chosen from a hydroxycarboxylic acid (co)polymers.~~ wherein the reinforcement material is an α -hydroxycarboxylic polymer.

37. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a composite comprising, ~~firstly,~~ a matrix comprising the collagenic peptide as defined in claim 22, and, ~~secondly,~~ a reinforcement material included in this the matrix, ~~this reinforcement being chosen from polylactic acids and/or polyglycolic acids.~~ wherein the reinforcement material is polylactic acid and/or polyglycolic acid.

38. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a composite comprising, ~~firstly,~~ a matrix having a surface, the matrix comprising the collagenic peptide as defined in claim 22, and, ~~secondly,~~ a fibrous reinforcement material included in this the matrix, ~~this reinforcement being chosen from biodegradable polymers and that it is in the form of a film, the fibrous reinforcement being on only part of its surface.~~ wherein the reinforcement material is a biodegradable material in the form of a film, and the fibrous reinforcement is present on a part of the surface of the matrix.

39. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it~~ wherein the means is in a nonsolid form which is crosslinkable₁ and/or at least partly
crosslinked₁ and which can be applied and/or implantable onto and/or into a support.

40. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it~~ wherein the means is in a nonsolid form which is crosslinkable₁ and/or at least partly
crosslinked₁ and which can be applied and/or implantable onto and/or into a support,
and comprises collagenic peptide in liquid form.

41. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it~~ wherein the means is in a nonsolid form which is crosslinkable₁ and/or at least partly
crosslinked₁ and which can be applied and/or implantable onto and/or into a support,
and comprises collagenic peptide in the form of a gel.

42. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 39, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it comprises~~ further comprising at least one tool for storing and for applying into and/or
onto a support, a nonsolid form of the crosslinkable and/or at least partly crosslinked
collagenic peptide ~~which can be applied and/or implantable onto and/or into the support.~~

43. (Currently amended) The means according to claim 42, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it comprises~~ further comprising an oxidizing agent for crosslinking the collagenic
peptide.

44. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the means for preventing post-
surgical adhesions according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~
~~following essential steps:~~ comprising:

[[1.]] a) preparing a solution[[.]] of crosslinkable precursor of modified
collagenic peptide;

[[2.]] b) molding the filtrate ~~in the intended configuration for the means for~~

~~_____ preventing post-surgical adhesions to be prepared;~~ solution into an intended configuration;

[[3.]] c) ~~bringing about the crosslinking;~~ crosslinking the solution; and

[[4.]] d) ~~where appropriate, eliminating, with successive washes, the oxidizing agent possibly used. optionally, washing to remove an oxidizing agent when used to crosslink the solution.~~

45. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the means for preventing post-surgical adhesions according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that it comprises the following essential steps:~~ comprising:

[[1.]] a) preparing a solution[[.]] of crosslinkable precursor of modified collagenic peptide;

[[2.]] b) filtering ~~this~~ the solution so as to extract therefrom the elements which are greater than or equal to 0.8 μm [[.]] in size;

[[3.]] c) molding the filtrate ~~in the~~ into an intended configuration ~~for the~~
~~_____ means for preventing post-surgical adhesions to be prepared;~~

[[4.]] d) gelling the molded solution, ~~in a maturation phase,~~ by decreasing its temperature below its gelling temperature;

[[5.]] e) eliminating [[the]] solvent[[.]] ;

[[6.]] f) ~~bringing about the crosslinking,;~~ crosslinking the solution;

[[7.]] g) ~~where appropriate, eliminating, with successive washes, the~~
~~_____ oxidizing agent possibly used;~~ optionally, washing to remove an oxidizing agent when used to crosslink the solution;

[[8.]] h) impregnating the ~~material~~ solution which is crosslinked, or which is in the process of being crosslinked, using a solution of at least one plasticizer;

- [[9.]] i) drying the crosslinked material;
- [[10.]] j) cutting the crosslinked material to [[the]] a size for use; and
- [[11.]] k) sterilizing the crosslinked material by radiation.

46. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a means according to claim 22, wherein the means is in a nonsolid form which is crosslinkable₁ and/or at least partly crosslinked₁ and which can be applied and/or implantable onto and/or into a support, ~~for preventing postsurgical adhesions, characterized in that it comprises the following~~ essential steps: comprising:

- [[1.]] a) preparing a solution[[, ,]] of crosslinkable precursor of modified collagenic peptide; and
- [[2.]] b) packaging the solution sterilely under an inert atmosphere.

47. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a means according to claim 22, wherein the means is in a nonsolid form which is crosslinkable₁ and/or at least partly crosslinked₁ and which can be applied and/or implantable onto and/or into a support, ~~for preventing postsurgical adhesions, characterized in that it comprises the following~~ essential steps: comprising:

- [[1.]] a) preparing a solution[[, ,]] of crosslinkable precursor of modified collagenic peptide;
- [[2.]] b) filtering [this] the solution so as to extract therefrom the elements which are greater than or equal to 0.8 μm [[,]] in size;
- [[3.]] c) concentrating the solution; and
- [[4.]] d) packaging the solution sterilely under an inert atmosphere.

48. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 47, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein the packaged solution is applied onto a support and ~~in that~~ crosslinking is
brought about[[,]] using a biocompatible oxidizing agent.

49. (Canceled)